

## Orbital 360° sprayer

To get rid of foliage pests, it's important to spray the undersides of leaves, as well as the top. But spray bottles stop working when you tip them to spritz beneath the leaves. Not anymore! With this new hand-held sprayer you can spray any way you want — even upside down or sideways — and you'll get a consistent and even spray. The nozzle is adjustable for a fine mist or a steady stream.



**Bottom line** Now you can finally get an even coating of whatever pest- or disease-control product you like to use.

**Source** Liquid Fence Company at 800-923-3623 or [www.liquidfence.com](http://www.liquidfence.com)

**Price** \$2.49 for a 24-ounce sprayer; \$2.79 for a 32-ounce sprayer



## Augusta Blue Skies cupflower

This sweet little blue cupflower was beautiful in a container in our test garden. Augusta™ Blue Skies (*Nierembergia* hybrid) from Proven Winners® flowers earlier than other cultivars. Our plants seemed to bloom most profusely in the cool spring but kept the show going through summer, too. Growing 8 to 12 inches tall and 14 to 18 inches wide, it has a mounded habit, which makes it a good front-of-the-border (or container) plant. Grow Augusta Blue Skies in full to part sun and well-drained soil for best results. This annual is heat-tolerant in AHS zones 12 to 1.

**Bottom line** The long bloom time and numerous flowers make this an annual worth growing.

**Source** Local garden centers

## did you know?

### Killer compost

Gardeners in the United Kingdom and the United States have recently lost plants due to compost contaminated with aminopyralid. It's a chemical found in the weed killers ForeFront® and Milestone®, used to treat pastures where cattle and horses graze. The problem for gardeners is that aminopyralid doesn't break down even if eaten and digested by an animal. As a result, some manures are laced with an unhealthy dose of broadleaf herbicide. The company that produces this chemical recommends that composted manure from animals grazing in treated fields not be sold for use in gardens. So next time you buy manure from a local source, ask if the field where the animals grazed was treated with aminopyralid.

### Birdfiles

Bird lovers have another Web site to bookmark. Dave's Garden now has Birdfiles, a database filled with photos and information. You can check it out at [www.davesgarden.com/guides/birdfiles](http://www.davesgarden.com/guides/birdfiles). Search by common or Latin names to find out where your favorite bird has been sighted and read the comments of other bird watchers. If you want to add a photo, bird information or post comments, you must be a member. But that's free and easy: Just choose a user name and type in your e-mail address on the registration page. Or you can buy a paid membership that gets you into all the forums on Dave's site.

### Catnip keeps Asian lady beetles away

Scientists at the USDA Agricultural Research Service have been looking for an environmentally friendly way to keep Asian lady beetles out of homes. They've tested extracts of several plants. But so far, nepetalactone, a compound made from catnip oil, has worked the best. Research continues, but scientists expect that eventually combining a spray repellent like this with other strategies will encourage the beetles to stay out of your house and in the garden where they belong.